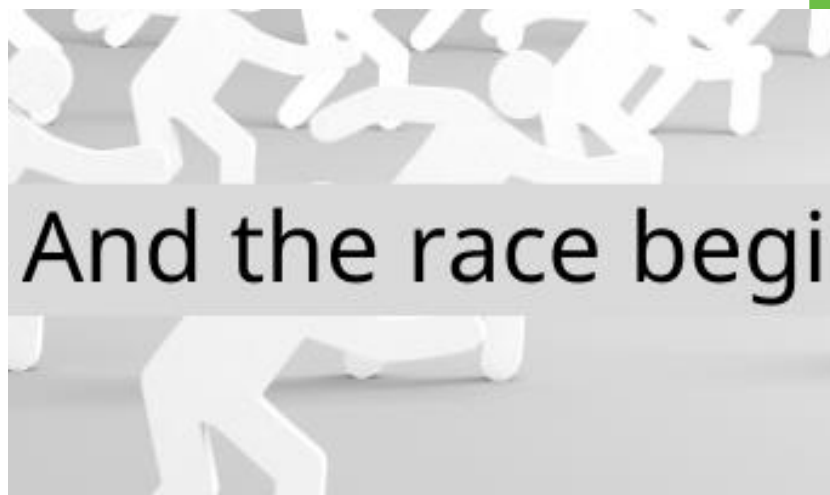


2021

Leadership Contest Rules



And the race begins!



Green Party of Nova Scotia

6/11/2021

Green Party of Nova Scotia Leadership Contest Rules 2021

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Summary

A new Leadership, consisting of a leader and a deputy leader, shall be elected at a Leadership Special General Meeting held Aug 14, 2021, due to the loss of the Leader which was declared Apr 26th. Both contestants for the positions will run together as a pair on the same ticket. A Leadership Contest Team which organizes and conducts the leadership contest was appointed by the executive.

The deadline for applications is July 8, 2021. Leadership teams must submit \$500, to be paid in two installments, as a minimum fundraising total and participation fee. There will also be a compliance deposit of \$500 which is refundable in whole or in part if the rules including the submission of financial reports are complied with.

There will be an in-person, if possible, and broadcasted debate. There will be nominator and contestant speeches as well as a question-and-answer period at the in-person, if possible, and broadcasted Leadership Special General Meeting. The debate and leadership meeting will be via Zoom if COVID-19 restrictions prohibit live events.

Voting times will be 10 am, Aug 13th to 4 pm, Aug 14th.

Definitions

GPNS Executive and Purpose of the Green Party of Nova Scotia (GPNS)

The Executive consists of a number of elected and appointed members who ensure that

- the party observes its Constitution and By-laws in providing for the effective and efficient operation of the Party and
- respects the purposes of the Party which are to:
 - foster a sustained political institution that reflects the Six Principles of the Charter of the Global Greens: ecological wisdom, social justice, participatory democracy, nonviolence, sustainability, and respect for diversity, and in so doing to consider the interests of all Nova Scotians, their future generations, and the biosphere and
 - maintain registration as a political party with Elections Nova Scotia and therefore to provide a sufficient number of candidates for election to the House of Assembly of the Province of Nova Scotia in all relevant elections and to meet all requirements under the Elections Act and other relevant legislation of the Province of Nova Scotia
- while honouring all lawful Treaties made with the First Nations of Nova Scotia.

GPNS Membership

Any resident in Nova Scotia is eligible for membership if the person:

- is over 15 years of age;
- is not a member of any other provincial political party;

- pays the appropriate membership fees (\$10, free for those under 30 years);
- signs or electronically confirms agreement with a statement that the person:
 - supports the Green Party of Nova Scotia;
 - understands that the Green Party of Nova Scotia is a registered political party, and hence that its primary purpose is to field candidates for election as Members of the Nova Scotia House of Assembly; and
 - will act with respect and support towards other members of the Green Party of Nova Scotia.

Membership List

- members who are eligible to vote (must be in good standing by July 31st)
- Members whose membership is lapsed less than 90 days may renew until 24 hours before the beginning of online voting.
 - Otherwise, lapsed members need to renew two weeks before the meeting.
- All leadership contestants will be provided with membership lists.

The Leadership of the party

- consists of the leader and the deputy leader
- shall be the spokespersons for the Party in any formal statements made to the news media on behalf of the Party as a whole and
- is to base position statements on the Principles of the Party, the policies ratified by the membership, the Platform, and the collective wisdom of Nova Scotians.

Leadership Applicant

- Someone who has applied to be a leadership contestant but has not yet been approved.

Leadership Candidates or Contestants

The Leadership of the party consisting of a candidate for Leader and a candidate for Deputy Leader is to be voted upon as a unit.

Candidates or Contestants:

- are two individuals who have successfully been approved, one running for leader and one running for deputy leader and
- the terms Candidates and Contestants are used interchangeably.

Notices

The Leadership Contest Team is responsible for election notices.

The **initial election notice** (sent on June 8th, 2021) complied with GPNS By-Laws by including:

1. the date of the Leadership Special General Meeting – Aug 14th, 2021
2. the voting methods and dates

3. the voting rights requirements including the membership deadline of Jul 31st, 2021
4. the requirements to declare intent to run
5. the electronic address to which “Declaration of Intent to Run” documentation is to be sent
6. the closing date for documentation to be received – Jul 8th, 2021
7. a welcome to contestants including all genders and sexualities, Mi’kmaq people, people with disabilities, cultural minority groups, and other under-represented minorities, reflective of local demographics and party values

The **second notice (to be sent by Jul 15th, 2021) will include:**

1. the names of those seeking the positions of leader and deputy leader
2. the date, and details of the Party’s centrally-organized debate
3. details of the Leadership Special General Meeting including the start time and voting details and
4. information regarding any pre-election events such as candidates’ forums or formal speeches.

a call for questions to be considered in the meeting question and answer period. The **final notice (to be sent by Aug 11th, 2021) will include:**

1. registration information for the in-person &/or the online meeting
2. voting credentials for online voting (or that they will be coming out separately)
3. any changes since the previous notices and
4. a reminder of the meeting details including contestants’ names

Ruling Authorities

Elections Nova Scotia (ENS)

- All Leadership Applicants and Contestants and their teams are subject to any and all regulations put forth in the Nova Scotia Elections Act.
- In cases of discrepancy between the Leadership Contest documents and the Nova Scotia Elections Act, the Nova Scotia Elections Act prevails.
- See Appendix A for Sections of the Nova Scotia Elections Act that most apply.

The Constitution and By-laws of the Green Party of Nova Scotia (GPNS)

- All Leadership Applicants and Contestants and their teams are subject to any and all regulations put forth in the Constitution and By-laws of the Green Party of Nova Scotia.
- The most relevant regulations of the Constitution and By-laws of the GPNS have been incorporated in this document. The link to the entire document is below.
- In cases of discrepancy between the Leadership Contest documents and the Constitution and By-laws of the GPNS, the Constitution and By-laws prevail.

Leadership Contest Team (LCT)

Composition

- A team appointed by the GPNS Executive
 - consisting of a minimum of an organizer and a returning officer and
 - responsible for the design, administration and implementation of the Leadership Contest, including all forms and documents.
- Conflict: Members of the LCT may provide support to Leadership Contestants if provided equally to all. All LCT members must behave impartially. To preserve the integrity of the process and to give members confidence that the LCT is acting fairly this means:
 - All members of the LCT have an ethical obligation to vacate their positions on the LCT as soon as they seriously consider running as a contestant or providing preferential support to a contestant.
 - If a member of the LCT files an “Intent to Run” document, their position on the LCT is immediately, automatically, considered vacated.
 - If a member of the LCT makes any public or private statement that is reported to the LCT, indicating that the person is considering running or providing preferential support to a contestant, the other members of the LCT have an obligation to question the member about those statements, and to require them to either rescind the statements or resign from the LCT. In such a situation, if no other satisfactory resolution has been found, the other members of the LCT may, by a 2/3 vote, remove that person from the LCT.

Meeting with Contestants

- A member of the Leadership Contest Team will meet with each Leader and Deputy Contestant pair within seven (7) days of the approval of their Contestant Applications to review rules and regulations associated with the Leadership Contest, including, but not limited to Leadership Contest Rules, GPNS privacy regulations and policies, financial reporting, and other logistical details.
 - The Leadership Contestants are responsible for ensuring all relevant information is communicated to all people who work on their Leadership campaign.

Compliance

- The Leadership Contest Team will work proactively and in good faith, with Contestants and their teams to identify potential violations and pre-emptively avoid the need to issue a compliance violation ruling.
- Should the Leadership Contest Team deem a Leadership Contestant or a person acting under their direction to be in violation of a rule related to the Leadership, the Leadership Contest Team may impose a penalty. Penalties may include (but are not limited to):
 - a fine (to be deducted from the \$500 compliance deposit)
 - expulsion of the Leadership Contestants
 - the Leadership Contestants not receiving the Membership List or

- the Leadership Contestants being excluded from the centrally-organized Party debate.
- A list of sample violations and associated potential penalties will be provided to the contestants during their meeting with the Leadership Contest Team representative. The list will serve as examples to improve fairness but all possible violations, and their severity, may vary.
- Leadership Contestants may appeal a decision as below.

Appeals

- Leadership Contestants may request a reconsideration of a decision or ruling of the Leadership Contest Team in writing to the Leadership Contest Team through the GPNS administrator or their designate within forty-eight (48) hours of receiving notice of the decision or ruling.
- The Leadership Contest Team will first reconsider the decision, and the response will be issued within 48 hours of receipt of the request.
- Decisions where the response is in disagreement with the request will go to the Executive of GPNS, excluding any members of the Leadership Contestant Team, who will decide within five (5) days. Therefore, decisions on appeals will be issued within a total of seven (7) days of receipt of the appeal. All decisions on appeals or rulings of the GPNS Executive in response to an appeal are final.

The Leadership Contest Team will have jurisdiction to issue adjustments or rulings in all circumstances which are not covered by the Leadership Contest Rules.

Contestant Eligibility

Each Applicant:

- Must be eligible for election to the NS Legislature
 - a resident of Nova Scotia,
 - a Canadian citizen, and
 - of provincial legal voting age by the first day of the General Meeting at which the election is to be held.
- Must be a member in good standing of GPNS
- Must intend to seek candidacy in provincial elections
- Must commit to uphold the Six Global Core Principles of Green Parties - Participatory Democracy, Nonviolence, Social Justice, Sustainability, Respect for Diversity and Ecological Wisdom
- If serving as a member of GPNS Executive or any subcommittee related to the Leadership race, must recuse themselves from any discussion related to the Leadership Contest and must resign from their positions within forty-eight (48) hours of receiving notice of the approval of their Leadership Application.

Exclusions:

- A current member or volunteer for another registered Nova Scotia political party.
- Employment or other conflicts which may limit what contestants say or do on behalf of the party, e.g., an employee of a pulp mill or a media outlet may not be permitted (or wise) to speak out on some issues.
- Members of the Leadership Contest Team unless as previously noted.
- The interim leader, if interested in running as part of a leadership contestant pair, must resign within one week of publication of these Leadership rules and the Executive must appoint an alternative interim leader.

Application Process

How to apply

- The application deadline is Jul 8th, 2021.
- Both contestants that are part of a Leadership Contestant pair must submit a “Declaration of Intent to Run” documentation to provincial.admin@greenpartyns.ca.
- Declaration of Intent to Run documents must include:
 1. a completed application form,
 2. a 250-word letter of application stating reasons for seeking the leadership of the Green Party of Nova Scotia,
 3. proof of Nova Scotia residence and Canadian citizenship (scans/photocopies accepted),
 4. a current resume or *Curriculum Vitae*,
 5. a current photograph,
 6. the name of their contestant running mate for Leadership, and
 7. the signatures or electronic endorsements of twenty-five (25) Members in total, with at least two (2) from each of five (5) of the GPNS Regions (see constitution and by-laws for a list of regions and associated electoral districts). Endorsement does not entail a commitment of support, only approval of participation in the race. Members may endorse more than one leadership contestant pair.
- Applicants will be informed that they have been approved as Leadership contestants by the Leadership Contest Team within seven (7) days of receipt of the complete applications of both applicants including the required minimum fundraising / participation fee and may then refer to themselves as Leadership contestants or candidates. Contestants will be provided with membership lists and a letter confirming that they are approved leadership contestants that they can take to their bank or credit union to open an account.

Required Fundraising and Compliance Deposit

- A non-refundable payment of \$100 for each member of the Leadership leader and deputy leader pair shall accompany their applications and

- A non-refundable payment of \$150 from each member to be received within 28 days of approval.
 - It is expected, but not required, that these two non-refundable fees will be generated by the Candidates' fundraising, and the fees are not intended to deter or limit participation. Rather they are intended to create minimum fundraising thresholds of \$200 (at the time of application) and \$300 (within 28 days), together forming the Candidate pair's \$500 participation fee.
- An additional refundable compliance deposit of \$500 from each Contestant pair is due within 10 days of acceptance of the application.
 - Fines issued by the Leadership Contest Team for non-compliance with the Leadership Contest Rules will be deducted from the Contestant pair's Compliance Deposit.
 - The Compliance Deposit less any fines issued by the Leadership Contest Team will be returned to Leadership Contestant thirty (30) days after the completion of the Leadership Contest and submission of all required financial documents.
- Funds will be refunded if a contestant withdraws within 7 days of applying but not thereafter.

Vetting

Both contestants will undergo screening consisting of:

- Review of the completeness of the application
- Social Media Check (unless one has been completed for MLA candidacy for the 2021-22 election) and
- Interview by a vetting team contracted by the Leadership Contest Team.

Campaign Rules

Finances and Fundraising and Reporting

- **Spending Limit:** No Leadership Contestant pair of the Green Party of Nova Scotia may spend more than \$7,500 total, including campaigning before and during the meeting.
- Leadership Contestants are responsible for ensuring their Leadership Campaign follows all financial regulations set out in this document.
- **Handling donations:** All donations are to be processed through the GPNS and a 10% administration fee will be charged for all donations after the first \$500. Contestants will not handle any donations as they come in. The directed donations to each leadership contestant pair, minus the administration fee, will be distributed to the contestants on the Tuesday of each week of the contest.
- **Reporting:** Any contestant for the Leadership of the Green Party of Nova Scotia must submit a financial report detailing all campaign contributions of money, services, and material, and from whom, within fourteen (14) days of the Leadership Election to the Leadership Contest Team, recorded in accordance with the Elections Act.

- **Funds in excess of required payments:** Excess Funds remaining in a Leadership Contestant's bank account after all their Leadership Campaign liabilities have been paid must be transferred to GPNS.

Memberships

Membership lists

The Leadership Contest Team will supply approved Leadership Contestants with up-to-date membership lists.

- The membership list will be provided as a Comma-separated Values (.csv) file and contain the following for each member and recently-lapsed member:
 1. name
 2. basic contact information (address, email and phone number, if provided to GPNS by the member, unless it is their stated preference to not be contacted),
 3. membership expiry date and
 4. riding.
- Lists will be provided to Leadership Contestants at the following times:
 1. upon confirmation that a Leadership Contestant pair is approved and
 2. the first and third Tuesday of every month for the duration of the Leadership Contest.

New Members

- Leadership Contestants and Leadership Campaign teams are encouraged to sign up new party members.
 - All party memberships including applicable fees must be processed directly by the GPNS, preferably online through the website.
 - Leadership Campaign teams may retain a copy of the registration information of new party members with whom they have existing contact.

Contestant Protocol

Behaviour:

All Leadership Contestants must, as part of their application package, commit to:

- Abide by the Six Core Principles of the GPNS
- Run a respectful campaign that engages other contestants on issues but does not use personal attacks. Stating factual differences between contestants is acceptable, e.g., stating that someone worked as a government lobbyist for a particular polluting company, if true. However, personal attacks, or using hearsay, publicly or in any communication with any member, will not be accepted.
- Always being respectful of diversity. For example, comments or behaviour consistent with racism or ableism and acts of disrespect of individuals or groups of any kind will not be tolerated.
- Always conducting themselves in a manner that positively portrays the GPNS and
- Adhere to, and ensure their Leadership Campaigns adhere to, the GPNS privacy policies, Code of Conduct, and all other GPNS policies

Handling personal information:

- Leadership Contestants may not use GVote during the leadership race, only the membership lists they've been provided.
- In the collection, use and disclosure of Personal Information, Leadership Contestants and Leadership Campaign teams must respect the privacy of that which is contained in membership lists or identified in the course of the leadership campaign and obey the Personal Information Protection and Electronic Documents Act.
- Leadership Contestants must destroy any and all Personal Information collected by their Leadership Campaign within fourteen (14) days of the completion of the Leadership Contest, except where retaining Personal Information is required by law.

Fairness

Internal Party Positions

- Members of the GPNS Executive who serve as Officers or who hold any senior Communications role within the Party, members of the Leadership Contest Team, and employees of or contracted by the GPNS must remain impartial during the Leadership Contest and may not actively support or nominate a Leadership Contestant or Leadership Campaign. If a member of Leadership Contest Team wishes to actively support contestants, they must resign their position within one week of the announcement of the rules.
- Electoral District Associations, Constituency Divisions and Regional Divisions, as groups, must remain impartial during the Leadership Contest and may not actively support or endorse a Leadership Contestant or Leadership Campaign. However, members of the Executives of these groups, as individuals, may support a Leadership Contestant or Leadership Campaign.

All candidates debate

The Leadership Contest Team will hold an official Leadership Contest debate.

- The location and details of the debate will be announced after all Leadership contestants have entered the race and been approved and will depend on provincial COVID restrictions for in-person gatherings.
- Whether in-person or not, the debate will be broadcast online and recorded so that party members and the general public can participate at the time or watch the recording to learn about the Leadership Contestants.
- All approved Leadership Contestants must make every effort to attend and must do so at their own expense.

Additional events (e.g., debates or meet-and-greets) may be organized by local organizations around the province but must be approved by the Leadership Contest Team to ensure equitable opportunities for all contestants. The Leadership Contestants are encouraged, but not required, to attend such events.

Leadership Election Special General Meeting and Voting

Leadership Election Special General Meeting

The Party will hold a Special General Meeting for the purpose of electing the Leader and Deputy Leader.

- The date of the meeting is Aug 14th, 2021.
- The location and details of the election meeting will be announced in the second notice after all Leadership contestants have entered the race and been approved and will depend on provincial COVID restrictions for in-person gathering.
- Whether in-person or not, the meeting will be broadcast online so that party members and the general public can learn about the Leadership Contestants.
- The details of the meeting will depend, in part, on the number of contestants but will include:
 - Formal nomination of each pair of contestants
 - Acceptance of the nomination by the contestant for leader in a speech
 - Participation in a question-and-answer session with the membership, the details of which and the calls for questions to be submitted by members will be announced in the second notice.
- It is expected that there will be a final opportunity for Contestants to address the Membership before voting opens. The details will likewise be dependent on circumstances and will be announced closer to the time.

Voting

Voting will be by electronic ballots online which open at 10 AM, Aug 13th, and close at 3:45 PM, Aug 14th.

Vote-counting will be:

- By “instant run-off” preferential ranked ballot where voters rank each contestant pair and none-of-the-above,
- with repeated rounds of counting until one leadership pair achieves a majority (greater than 50%) and

Members who have individual voting rights for the meeting:

- will receive a PIN for their secure online voting which permits organizers to know who has voted but not how they voted and
- may either vote in-person at the meeting (computers will be provided) or using their own or another’s computer. There will be designated assistants throughout the province to assist those without the ability to access or use the system on their own. Those who need such assistance are requested to notify the LCT at least 24 hours before the close of voting. All members who have not provided an email address to the Party will be presumed to require assistance, and shall be pro-actively contacted by the Leadership Contest Team to inquire regarding assistance.

The Leadership Contest Team Returning Officer will have final say on membership status and will ensure the integrity of the Leadership vote.

Important Dates

Jun 8	First Leadership election notice to the membership and placed on our website and links to it placed on various social media platforms Press release to media outlets
Jun 15	Leadership Contest rules released and request for Declaration to Run online and in first notice
Jul 8	Deadline to submit a Leadership Application with all documentation to be received
1 week	Time for verification of documentation and vetting
Jul 15	Second Leadership notice with notification to the membership of the contestants for each position
Jul 31	Deadline to become a Party Member and be eligible to participate in the Leadership Vote
Aug 2	Provisional final list of eligible voting members
To be determined	Party-organized Debate
Aug 4	Final list of eligible voting members
Aug 11	Final Leadership notice and emailing of online voting information
Aug 13, 10 AM	Deadline for renewing for those whose memberships had lapsed within 90 days of the meeting
Aug 13, 10 AM	Voting in the leadership contest opens
Aug 14, 2021	Leadership Special General Meeting (<i>start time determined by number of contestants</i>)
Aug 14, 3:45 PM	Voting in the leadership contest closes
Aug 14, 4 PM	Results of the leadership contest announced
Sept 13	Final date for submission of Leadership contestant financial reports detailing all campaign contributions of money, services, material and donors and a signed declaration of destruction of all personal information collected by a Leadership Campaign
Sep 13	Compliance deposits returned to Leadership Contestants

Appendix A

Sections from the Elections Act which pertain to Leadership Races

PART II

ELECTORAL FINANCE

Interpretation

166 In this Part,

(n) “leadership contestant” means an individual who is campaigning to become the leader of a registered party;

DISCLOSURE OF CONTRIBUTIONS

Disclosure statement by nomination candidate or leadership contestant

249 (1) Money or property conveyed by a nomination candidate or leadership contestant to a registered party is deemed to be a contribution to the registered party and must be disclosed pursuant to subsection 240(1) of this Act.

240 (1) On or before April 30th in each year, every official agent of a registered party shall file with the Chief Electoral Officer a disclosure statement in the prescribed form showing the full name and residential address, other than a post office box unless that is the only address available, of each contributor whose contributions received by that official agent during the previous calendar year equal to or exceed two hundred dollars in total and the amount of the total contributions by that contributor.

(2) The contributions in subsection (1) must be attributed on a proportionate basis to the individuals who gave money or property to the nomination candidate or leadership contestant.

(3) The total amount contributed to a registered party under subsection (1) must not exceed the sum of

(a) the amount of any money or value of any property given to a nomination candidate or leadership contestant by an individual that would have been permitted as a contribution to a registered party if it were made directly to the registered party; and

(b) the amount of any money or value of any property received from a registered party or electoral district association by a nomination candidate or leadership contestant.

(4) Money or property from a nomination candidate or leadership contestant must not be accepted by another leadership contestant, electoral district association or candidate.

(5) The amount by which the total of fees charged by a registered party to leadership contestants exceeds the total cost of holding the leadership convention is deemed to be a contribution to the registered party and the contribution must be attributed on a proportionate basis to individuals who gave money or property to the leadership contestants. 2011, c. 5, s. 249.

Return of excess contributions

250 (1) Where an individual makes contributions to a registered party and all candidates and electoral district associations of that party totalling more than the amount permitted by subsection 236(3), the registered party, candidate or electoral district association, as the case may be, shall return to the individual the amount in excess of the permitted amount.

(1A) Where an individual makes contributions to an independent candidate totalling more than the amount permitted by subsection 236(3A), the independent candidate shall return to the individual the amount in excess of the permitted amount.

(2) Where on a single day an individual makes contributions to two or more of a registered party and all candidates and electoral district associations of that party totalling more than the amount permitted by subsection 236(3) and immediately preceding that day the amount permitted by subsection 236(3) has not been exceeded, the registered party, candidates and electoral district associations, as the case may be, shall return to the individual the amount in excess of that amount in the same proportions relative to each that the contributions received by them on that day are relative to each other. 2011, c. 5, s. 250; 2013, c. 17, s. 14.

TAX RECEIPTS

Who may issue

253 (1) A tax receipt may be issued by the official agent of a registered party, at any time

No tax receipt

254 A tax receipt may not be issued for

- (a) amounts exempt from the definition of contributions;
- (b) a contribution realized through the sale or auction of goods, services or property;
- (c) a contribution realized through a lottery or raffle;
- (d) a donation in kind contribution;
- (e) loan contributions under Section 215; or
- (f) money contributed to a registered party by a leadership contestant or nomination candidate or fees paid to a registered party by a leadership contestant that are contributions under Section 249. 2011, c. 5, s. 254.